

ENTENTE MAY NAME DEFINITE PEACE TERMS

Clear Statement of Allies' Position in Reply to Germany Urged

NOW DISCUSSING PLAN

Lloyd George Expected to Make Positive Statement in Commons

Courses Open to Allies on Berlin Peace Offer

- 1. A blunt rejection of the peace note. 2. That Germany be invited to name terms in order to see if they are worth considering. 3. That Allies do not ask for terms, but present their own sentiments, terms and conditions.

The two outstanding points in today's developments arising out of the peace offer of the Central Empires are that the Allies have already begun an interchange of ideas on the situation and that there have been informal discussions on the matter between the United States and representatives of leading neutral European countries in Washington.

These discussions referred to a possible basis of common action looking toward mediation. President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing discussed this phase of the problem at a conference today, but no announcement of any decision was forthcoming.

It appears more likely, despite severe criticism of the Teuton proposal in London, Paris, Petrograd and Rome, that the Entente lies will present a definite counter-proposal, stating the terms on which they would consent to peace negotiations, and making a clear statement of their aims in the war.

Foreign Minister Sonnino, of Italy, discussing briefly the German proposal in the Chamber of Deputies, stated that the Allies must consider the offer carefully before taking action and that Italy alone could take no action before consulting her allies.

Kaiser Wilhelm, in a speech to German troops in Alsace, said that the peace offer of the Central Empires was made with the consciousness that victory was theirs.

STATEMENT OF POSITION BY ALLIES URGED

LONDON, Dec. 15.

A steady increase in sentiment that the Allies in refusing German peace plans should set forth their own terms of peace was manifest here today. Notwithstanding the continued illness of Premier Lloyd George, it is known that the Allies, through the Foreign Office, have already begun an informal exchange of views on von Bethmann-Hollweg's proposals.

There are three views entertained as to the course which the Allies should adopt in answering the German note, based on the realization that the Entente Powers must carefully avoid the pitfalls set by the Teutonic nations. The three plans are:

First. A blunt rejection of the note. The advocates of this course are convinced that this will be the only way in which to prevent the situation being maneuvered to advantage by Germany. Opponents of the plan hold, on the other hand, that it would be a serious mistake not to meet the issues raised by von Bethmann-Hollweg.

Second. That Germany name her terms on the assumption that these terms, yet to be made known officially, may really be worth considering, and might be considered without damage to Allied prestige.

Third. That the Allies do not ask Germany's terms, but detail their own sentiments as to peace, their own terms and conditions.

Suggestions made in the press and neutral nations, and particularly development of such an idea in the United States, have aided in developing sentiment for this third course. Moreover, it is seen by news from Germany that the Government did not expect a favorable response to its offer; therefore, England regards the main purpose of von Bethmann-Hollweg's proposals as manifestly twofold—to impress neutrals and the German public. Advocates of the policy of the Allies' listing their terms argue that in such a situation as presented now, the Allies have a splendid opportunity to put before the outside world as well as the people of Germany—who they have always believed generally ignorant of the real issues of the war—a clear, definite, united pronouncement of the Allies' aims and purposes.

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THE WEATHER

FORECAST. For Philadelphia and vicinity—Probably fair tonight and Saturday; colder Saturday; lowest tonight about 30 degrees; increasing winds becoming westerly Saturday.

Table with columns for Length of Day, Temperature at Each Hour, and other weather-related data.

ONE OF THE COMPANY THAT TRIPPED ITS WAY TO WORK



No photograph of Philadelphia today is complete without some respectable citizen lying prostrate on the pavement. Few of the pedestrians who witnessed the downfall of their fellows had the courage to laugh at the unfortunate ones, for those who did not suffer similar experiences were few and far between. The picture was taken at Sixth and Chestnut streets during the early rush hour. On the right is to be noted one of the dark green Colonial lamps with which Independence Square is now surrounded.

WAR MILLS GRIND, DEFYING WINTER

Troops Cannot March, but Machines of Fighting Never Cease

MANY BATTLES IN AIR

William Philip Simms, one of the most brilliant of the United Press group of war correspondents, has just received his credentials accrediting him permanently, for the duration of the war, to the British general headquarters in France, where he will represent the United Press exclusively. Simms is the first and only neutral correspondent to represent a single neutral news agency.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS (Copyright, 1916, by the United Press.) WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE. Dec. 15.

This is machine war. One realizes this more as winter swamps the earth with mud and wet. The purely human element is balked—but the war machines keep grinding on. The infantry can't march—but auto buses shunt the men back and forth like magic. The scouts are almost paralyzed—but aeroplanes defy the elements. The soldiers can't pass the mud holes between their line and the enemy, and attack to trench work and trench mortars all day. So, when the communique reads, "There is nothing to report," it doesn't mean the front is silent—for the machine fighting never ceases.

Just now one of the wettest, chilliest, dreariest snowfalls on record seems to be ushering in a correspondingly soggy winter. Huge flakes of snow resembling monstrous goose feathers and completely arresting aerial operations at times limit the vision to scarcely a hundred yards. But artillery and trench warfare goes on. Nothing stops this. The worst possible weather can only cause a slowing up.

Even when the snow and rain and fog prevent all attempts at observation, there are always many charted points against which the artillery hammers. The trench mortar men have the exact range of the enemy trenches in front.

The freezing weather and thaws are very

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TEUTONS TAKE BUZEU ON DASH INTO MOLDAVIA

Mackensen's Army Captures Important Rumanian Railway Center

4000 MADE PRISONERS

BERLIN, Dec. 15.

Field Marshal von Mackensen's army has captured the great railway center of Buzeu in northeastern Rumania, the German War Office announced today. Buzeu lies about sixty miles northeast of Bucharest and is considered one of the main gateways to the Rumanian province of Moldavia. Three railroads converge there.

The Bulgarians have effected another crossing of the Danube near Petestil. Petestil lies at the western end of the great Carnavao bridge.

The capture of 4000 additional Russo-Rumanian prisoners by the Ninth Army is reported in the official statement.

The War Office states that the pursuit of the fleeing armies is being pressed by the German allies despite bad weather and bad roads.

The path of the retreating Russian army is marked by burning villages, the communication says.

The Russians keep up their attacks along the Carpathians, but without success.

Buzeu is a city of nearly 25,000 inhabitants and is an important railroad center a little more than half way between Ploesti and Ramnoul-Sarah, at that point where Rumania is narrowest.

Official statements from Petrograd recently have indicated that it was the Rumanian-Russian plan to retreat to the Buzeu River line and there make a stand against the German advance, which pressed northward unrelentingly after the capture of Bucharest. The Buzeu River runs just

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GERMANY VAGUE AMBASSADOR SAYS

Count Bakmeteff, Russian Envoy, Declares Offers Indefinite

MUST BE CONSIDERED

Count George Bakmeteff, Russian Ambassador to the United States characterized the peace proposals of the Central Powers as "too indefinite today, upon his arrival in this city to attend the 'Made in America Bazaar,' being held in Horticultural Hall.

He came here from Washington with his wife arriving at Broad Street Station about 2:30 o'clock, and was met at the train by William Scull, of Overbrook, whose guest he will be while in the city. Unlike the French Ambassador who was here several days ago, the committee was formed to meet him.

When pressed for an interview upon the possibility of peace within the near future he said:

"The offer of the Central Empires is too indefinite. Every phase must be considered most thoroughly. I think, before any action can be taken. Until that time I do not feel that I can make any comment upon the situation."

He and his wife were taken by Mr. Scull in an automobile to the Ritz-Carlton, after which they planned to attend the bazaar being conducted for the benefit of war sufferers abroad.

Today is "Russian Day" at the bazaar. It was for that reason that the distinguished diplomat was invited to attend. When the Count and Madame Bakmeteff alighted from the train there was not the same enthusiastic salutation as was accorded Ambassador Jusserand when he came here on Wednesday afternoon. The Russian Envoy is not so well known in this country.

Beside Mr. Scull only a detective sent there from City Hall, accompanied him to an automobile. The plain-clothes man was assigned by Captain Tate to act as his body guard while he is in Philadelphia.

QUICK NEWS

BIG BREAK IN WHEAT; FLOUR TUMBLES ALSO

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—After rallying around noon from the big break of the morning, wheat again broke sharply this afternoon and closed with a net loss of 10 to 11 cents for the day. December closed at \$1.42 1-2, down 11 cents; May at \$1.55 1-2, off 11 1-8 cents, and July at \$1.32 1-4, off 10 3-8 from yesterday's close.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 15.—Flour prices dropped 50 cents here today, making the total decline for the week \$1. Millers are now quoting at \$8 per barrel.

GERMANS TORPEDO THREE SHIPS, ONE NEUTRAL

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Three ships, one a neutral, have been sunk by German submarines, it was stated in dispatches received here today. They were the Norwegian steamship Kaupanger, 5554 tons; the British ship Gloucece, 2369 tons, and the Portuguese steamship Leoa, 1011 tons.

PEACE SITUATION CAUSES NERVOUS DAY IN WALL ST.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Increasing apprehension over the peace situation caused one of the most tempestuous days in Wall street's history today. Sensitive to even the slightest outside influences and changes, prices fluctuated so rapidly that at times the tickers ran twenty to twenty-five minutes behind transactions. Trading was fast and furious. Rallies and breaks followed one another with lightning-like rapidity. War stocks and steels and coppers, the makers and losers of fortunes, led the tempest. Steel common, which has held the center of the stock stage for months in the public interest, dropped to 1914, only to crawl back a few minutes later to 11 1/2. Other steel issues sustained losses of five to ten points generally. It was difficult to get actual figures, so quickly did they change. Crucible, Lackawanna, Inspiration, Kennecott and Utah Copper followed the general trend and showed losses ranging from one to five and six points.

ONE-CENT LOCAL POSTAGE BILL BEFORE CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—One-cent postage on local drop-letter mail and increased postage for second-class mail, including all newspapers and magazines, was recommended to the House for favorable action by the House Postoffice Committee today. The vote was taken in executive session of the committee and the extent of the increase in second-class mail charges is not yet known.

CITY SCHOOLS DEFEY HEAVY SNOWSTORM

All public schools were open this afternoon in spite of the heavy snowstorm. The Superintendent of Schools has the authority to omit the afternoon session in case of bad weather, but at the headquarters of the Board of Education the authorities agreed that the "children would be better off in school."

BLINDED BY SNOW, ENGINEER KILLED ON RAILROAD

An engineer on the Pennsylvania Railroad was killed this morning on his way to work when, blinded by the snow, he was cut in two by a shifting engine near the West Philadelphia roundhouse. The engineer, Grant Carter, was married and lived in Wilmington.

SENATE BILL WOULD MAKE U. S. FEED EMPLOYEES AT COST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The Senate struck at the high cost of living this afternoon by adopting resolutions providing first steps toward having the Federal Government supply foodstuffs and supplies to Government employes at cost prices. The resolution, offered by Senator Gallinger, the Republican leader, directs the Secretaries of War and the Navy to report to the Senate how many persons are now supplied at cost by the Government and whether it would be practicable to extend the privilege to other Government employes.

LAW EXPRESSES DESIRE FOR NEW ORDER IN IRELAND

LONDON, Dec. 15.—A new state of affairs in Ireland "is most desirable," Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law announced in Commons today, lauding a speech by the Irish Nationalist leader, John Redmond.

KENT CLOW'S \$100,000 CHICAGO HOME BURNED

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—Residents of the fashionable Lake Forest neighborhood turned out in force early today to fight a fire which destroyed the \$100,000 home of Kent S. Clow. Mr. and Mrs. Clow fled in their bathrobe after saving Mrs. Clow's jewels.

SUNDAY'S LIFE THREATENED BY LIQUOR MEN, HE SAYS

BOSTON, Dec. 15.—A special policeman accompanied "Billy" Sunday on his trips about Boston today and stood guard over the Sunday home while the evangelist was resting. Sunday announced that his life had been threatened in an anonymous letter. "Work of the liquor interests," he declared. "They're afraid of me."

TEUTONS PLAN TO DEVELOP MESOPOTAMIA

BERLIN, Dec. 15.—With a capital of \$50,000,000, a great German-Austro-Hungarian company has just been incorporated for the industrial and agricultural development of Mesopotamia and other parts of Asiatic Turkey. The corporation is financed by the leading banks of the Central Empires and has secured options on large tracts of land suited for cotton plantations and scientific farming. In Armenia valuable mining properties have been acquired which promise great returns if they are worked properly. A commission of German and Austrian experts is at work in the districts to be exploited and the company will shortly begin to carry out its plans.

RUMANIAN PREMIER QUILTS; CABINET YET UNFORMED

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 15.—Resignation of the Rumanian Premier, at Jassy, the new capital of that monarchy, was announced in dispatches received here today. A new Cabinet has not yet been formed.

TWO FREEZE TO DEATH; ZERO WEATHER IN MIDDLE WEST

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—Two deaths from freezing, much suffering among the poor and the usual outbreak of fires came today on the heels of zero weather through a large part of the West and Middle West. The mercury dropped to one above zero in Chicago and went far below in the Middle Northwest.

LLOYD GEORGE BETTER; TO SPEAK TUESDAY

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Premier Lloyd George was much better today, his illness having subsided. His physicians indicated he would be able to speak in Commons Tuesday.

WINTER CASE OF INFANTILE PARALYSIS FATAL

A winter case of infantile paralysis has caused the death of five-months-old Veronica Karack, daughter of George Karack, of Oakview, Upper Darby township, after an illness of two days. The house into which Karack and his family moved about ten days ago is said to have been the home of a child who suffered from the malady and recovered some weeks ago.

CHILD, MOTHER OUT SHOPPING, SERIOUSLY BURNED

Three-year-old Carrie Jennings, of 1618 Moyamensing avenue, is in a critical condition today at the Mt. Sinai Hospital from burns received when her dress caught fire. The accident occurred while her mother was out doing Christmas shopping. The child's dress became ignited from a gas range. She rushed screaming to the street, where a pedestrian tore off her burning clothing.

POPE ISSUES CHRISTMAS MESSAGE ON PEACE

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 15.—In reply to the peace overtures of the Central Powers, Pope Benedict is expected to issue a general Christmas proclamation in a few days, according to advices received here today.

THREE MORE AMERICANS ON WAR CASUALTY LISTS

OTTAWA, Dec. 15.—The name of three more Americans appeared in the Canadian casualty lists. They are: Wounded—Private S. Snow (mounted rifle), Green, Me.; Bombardier H. Turand, artillery, Detroit. Seriously ill—Sergeant T. Nye, engineers, Detroit.

BLIGHT OF RUM SET ON YOUNG LEGISLATORS

Ex-Representative Tells Grangers of Evil Wrought by Lobby

YOUNG MEN RUINED AT START OF CAREERS

Sinister Influences Used on New Members on Arrival at Harrisburg

END OF A LIQUOR PROBE

Incident Shows Power Which Arrested Exposure of Impurities Years Ago

Accusations that the liquor interests have corrupted the government of Pennsylvania, have arrested the moral and mental development of the State and have blighted the careers of hundreds of young legislators in Harrisburg were made today by Frank N. Moore, of Bradford County, overmaster of the Pennsylvania State Grange, which is holding its forty-fourth annual session in this city.

The liquor blight is still strongly entrenched in Harrisburg, according to Mr. Moore. He asserted Pennsylvania would not receive good government until it was wiped out.

The overmaster of the State Grange spoke from many years' experience in the Legislature and as a former special agent of the Pennsylvania Pure Food and Dairy Commission.

Mr. Moore described how the liquor interests maintain twelve or more lobbyists at Harrisburg. The principal work of these lobbyists, he said, was to corrupt young legislators who come to Harrisburg ready to work for honest legislation reflecting the desires of their constituents. He told of the old days when the liquor lobbyists carried on their work within the walls of the Capitol. He said the booze ring maintained quarters in the State House, which were well stocked with liquors. When it was desired to obtain the co-operation of "idealistic young legislators," he said, the booze lobbyists lured them into the rum quarters and got them drunk. There were beds, he said, in the quarters where legislators could "sleep off" their intoxication and baths where they could boil the "hangovers" out of their systems. The same methods, Mr. Moore said, were still being employed outside of the Capitol in Harrisburg by the booze ring.

IMPURE LIQUORS AND BEERS

Mr. Moore said his acquaintance with the sinister influence of the booze ring began in 1896, when as a special agent for the Dairy and Food Commission he began

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DEMOCRATS HOLD SPEAKERSHIP KEY

Will Caucus at Harrisburg Tomorrow to Decide Legislative Course

MAY OFFER CANDIDATE

The part that the Democratic membership will play in the Speakership fight and the bitter factional warfare between the Vane-Brumbaugh coalition and the Penrose forces will be determined upon tomorrow at a conference, to be held in Harrisburg.

The conference will be held in the Senate Hotel, at 1 o'clock. The thirty-seven members-elect of the House, the ten Democratic State Senators and the State leaders, including A. Mitchell Palmer, Democratic national committeeman; Vance C. McCormick, Roland S. Morris and acting State Chairman Joseph F. Guffey will attend.

In addition to the Democratic attitude in the Speakership fight, the part the Democrats hope to play during the session will be decided. No candidate for Speaker will be brought out at tomorrow's meeting, but one will be selected at the regular caucus of the Democrats to be held the last week of the month.

It is conceded by leaders of both factions that the Democrats, who have thirty-seven votes in the next House of Representatives, could swing victory in the fight for control of the Legislature to whichever faction they might throw their strength.

MAY OFFER CANDIDATE

The Democratic State leader, however, on the eve of the caucus, today expressed the opinion that the Democrats would advance a candidate of their own for Speaker and that they would maintain their own organization throughout the session.

The date of the caucus of the Republican Philadelphia delegates has not been set, but the meeting will be held during the last week of December, it was announced today.

The caucus of the Allegheny County delegation will be held about the same time. The Allegheny County members-elect met a week ago at the call of Mayor Armstrong of Pittsburgh, and elected James I. Woodward chairman. He was in Philadelphia today, and said that he expected every one of the twenty-four members-elect from Allegheny County to attend the weekend caucus.

Word was received from Harrisburg that A. Nevin Pomeroy, of Chambersburg, had resigned as State Representative of Huntingdon and Blain. His return to the Legislature will be held in Harrisburg.

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